

Feather River Resource Conservation District

LONG-RANGE WORKPLAN 2005-2009



Mission Statement

*Our mission is to advocate resource conservation through education
and collaborative efforts with willing landowners and organizations
that promote economic and ecological sustainability.*

December 9, 2004

LONG-RANGE PLAN

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LONG-RANGE WORKPLAN 2005-2009

Prepared by

Feather River Resource Conservation District

*PO Box 677
116 Crescent St.
Greenville, CA 95947
Phone: 530-284-1300
Fax: 530-284-1302*

RCD Directors

*John Schramel, President
Phil Noia, Vice President
Mike Kossow, Director
David Nelson, Director
Phil Bresciani, Director
Rick Leonhardt, Director
Edward Cates, Director*

RCD Associate Directors

*Ray Stine
Mike DeLasaux, UCCE
Bob and Dorothy Farnworth
Jim Lidberg
Harry Rogers*

Staff

Andrea Rowland, Administrative Assistant

Executive Summary

Purpose

The Feather River Resource Conservation District strives to serve, cooperate with, and assist private landowners, Ag producers, and citizens to analyze, plan, design, and apply soil and water conservation practices within the RCD. Services are provided without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap status. Primary technical services are provided by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Feather River Coordinated Resources Management Group of which the RCD is a signatory. The RCD Board of Directors administers these services.

Background

The Board's efforts are augmented by the assistance and cooperation of the landowners of Plumas County as well as the Feather River Coordinated Resources Management Group, California Department of Forestry and Fire protection, UC Cooperative Extension, California Department of Fish and Game, Plumas County, and private consultants.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to advocate resource conservation through education and collaborative efforts with willing landowners and organizations that promote economic and ecological sustainability.

Authority

Organized under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code, the RCD is a public agency and authorized to provide conservation work within its boundaries. The RCD has the legal authority to cooperate with the United States, the State of California, counties, cities, public districts, other resource conservation districts, persons, associations, and corporations. With the consent of the owner, RCDs also have the authority to construct on privately or publicly owned lands necessary work for the prevention and control of soil erosion and water conservation. The expenditure of public funds for planning, designing or implementing resource conservation work constitutes expenditure for the general public benefit (RCD Guidebook, 2000).

History

In response to the national "Dust Bowl" crisis of the 1930s the federal government passed legislation establishing the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), in 1937. Local Conservation Districts were set up under state law to be

controlled by local board of directors...in order to provide local input and direction to the Soil Conservation Service.

In California, Conservation Districts have been formed in nearly all parts of the state beginning in the 1940s. Many have been consolidated over time and of the hundreds of districts that once existed in California, 103 remain.

Soil Conservation Districts were originally empowered to manage soil and water resources for conservation, but these powers were expanded in the early 1970s to include “related resources,” including fish and wildlife habitat. This expansion is responsible for the name change to “Resource” Conservation Districts (RCDs) in 1971.

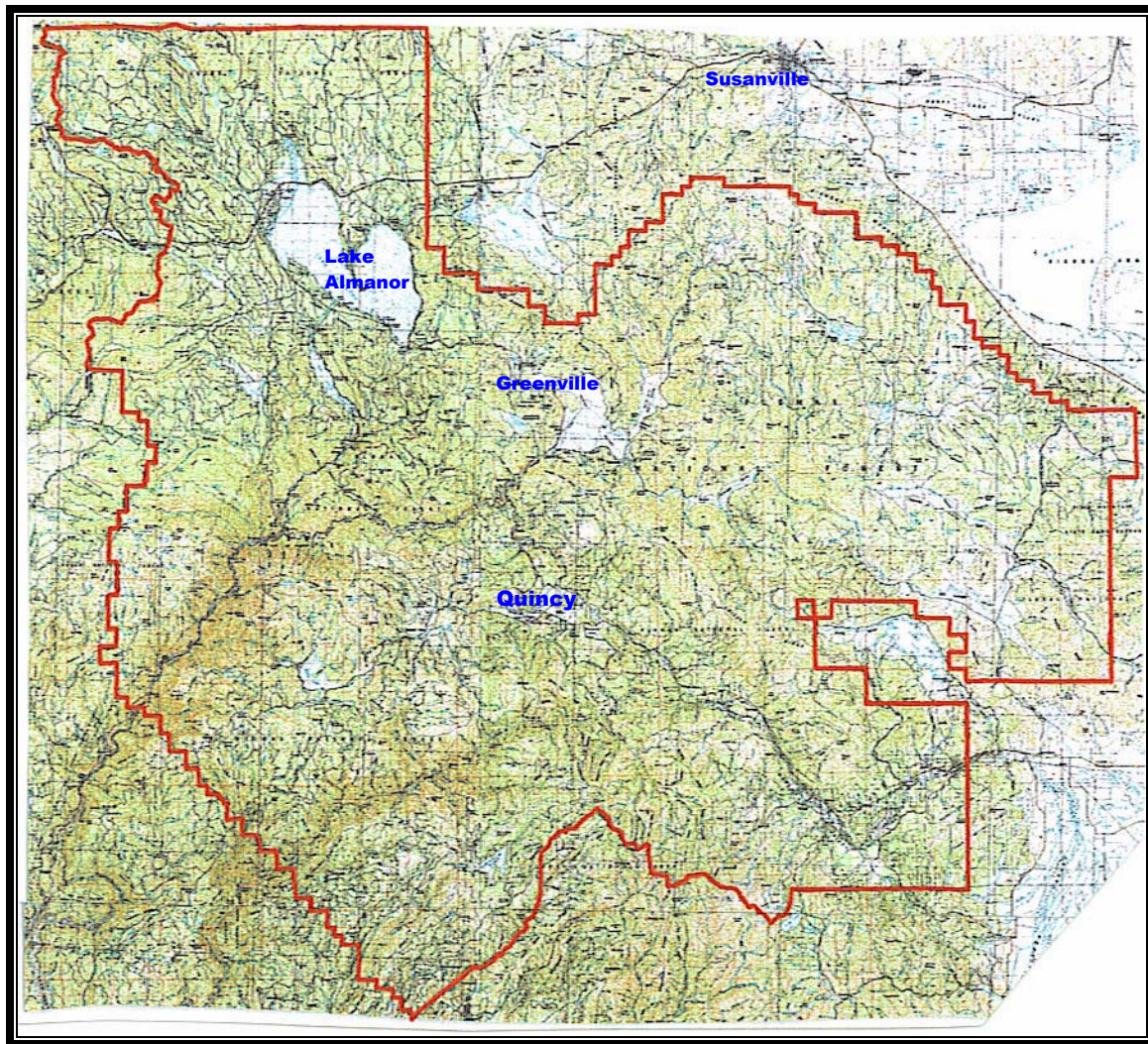
RCDs continue to render assistance today because farmers, ranchers, and other landowners still need up-to-date scientific information and techniques to manage the natural resources on their properties (RCD Guidebook, 2000).

Once called the Indian-American Valleys Resource Conservation District, the Feather River RCD was instated in 1954. In 1993, the District boundaries were expanded to coincide closer to the boundaries of Plumas County. It was during this boundary expansion that the District’s name was changed to the Feather River RCD. The Feather River RCD is located in the Modoc Plateau Region of California RCDs.

Sphere of Influence

The District boundary encompasses a service area of approximately 2,254 square miles or 1,442,565 acres. The District’s sphere of influence includes all types of land uses and falls in or around many towns and communities including: Quincy, Portola, Genesee, Taylorsville, Greenville, Crescent Mills, Lake Almanor, Canyon Dam, and Chester. The District’s boundary extends to Lassen, Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Yuba, and Sierra County lines.

Map of Planning Area



— Feather River RCD Boundary

Natural Resource Inventory

Climate

The climate of the District is highly varied due to the broad range in elevation and broken terrain. Elevation ranges from about 900 feet in the western foothills to 8,732 feet at Mt. Ingalls. The average annual temperature ranges from about 46 to 57 degrees F and the average annual precipitation ranges from about 15 to 70 inches. The annual frost free period ranges from about 60 to 120 days (Plumas National Forest Soil Resource Inventory, 1983).

West of the Sierra crest, weather is primarily of a maritime pattern with wet winters and dry summers. East of the crest, the marine influence lessens and

there is a greater range in daily and seasonal temperatures, lower precipitation amounts, a greater contribution to total precipitation from summer thunder storms, and lower humidity.

Over 95% of the precipitation falling in the district occurs during the winter months. Winter temperatures below zero and summer temperatures over 100 degrees F have been recorded. A snowpack of five to 10 feet or more is commonly present from December through May at elevations above 6,000 feet. Thunderstorm activity, generally in the summer months, occurs most frequently on the east side.

Soils

There are approximately 30 different soil types and 13 soil mapping units within the Feather River RCD (Plumas National Forest Soil Resource Inventory, 1983). This area mostly consists of deep glacial soil deposits making for a combination of loams, clays, and some sands.

Agriculture

Agriculture in the Feather River RCD is a \$41 million industry (annually). Commodities include alfalfa hay, meadow hay, grain hay, irrigated pasture, non-irrigated pasture, range pasture, timber, cattle, and other livestock. Plumas County ranked fifth in California's list of leading timber counties.

Water Resources



The water resources in the Feather River RCD consist of rivers, creeks, stream and lakes, both natural and man-made. The Feather River watershed has long been recognized for its recreational and aesthetic value (Feather River Coordinated Resource Management group). Plumas County is entirely encompassed by the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region (California Department of Water Resources). All of the County's watersheds drain to the Sacramento River, eventually feeding the Pacific Ocean through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The most commonly known water resources of Plumas County are the Feather and Middle Fork Feather Rivers, and Lake Almanor.

Plant and Animal Resources

The Feather River RCD is rich in abundant species of trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildlife. An important wildlife habitat, often referred to as an "edge effect", is created where the forest trees and openland areas meet or intermingle (Plumas National Forest Soil Resource Inventory, 1983).

During the winter months, the mountain valleys provide habitat for resident deer (Sloat and Doyle deer herds), mountain quail, some songbirds, Great Basin

Canadian geese, and other waterfowl. The warmer months bring in other species such as shore birds, birds of prey, and California valley quail.

The majority of the District is covered with conifers such as pine, spruce, fir, cedar, and juniper. Examples of some other trees and shrubs found here are oaks, cottonwoods, willows, wild rose, dogwood, hickory, mountain mahogany, big sagebrush, and blackberry.



LONG-RANGE PLAN

Summary of Strategic Areas and Objectives for 2005-2009

Strategic Area 1: Agriculture

Goal 1: Assist landowners and managers to improve or maintain agriculture management.

Objective 1: Provide technical assistance to landowners to participate in state or federal cost-share programs.

Objective 2: Participate with commodity groups (like Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau, etc.)

Goal 2: Promote voluntary application of site specific Best Management Practices.

Objective 1: Provide technical assistance to increase awareness and promote voluntary application of conservation practices on issues such as pasture vegetation, irrigation, and livestock management.

Objective 2: Increase functionality of ecosystem to ensure sustainability of Ag operations and wildlife habitat.

Strategic Area 2: Organization

Goal 1: Identify and pursue adequate funding to support the delivery of conservation efforts to gain more economic stability.

Objective 1: Obtain and maintain grant funding from state, federal, and local sources.

Objective 2: Secure necessary support of in-kind services, volunteers and contributions.

Goal 2: Develop and maintain partnerships to promote delivery of District programs and services.

Objective 1: Strengthen internal communications.

Goal 3: Maintain a complete district board.

Objective 1: Identify and recruit associate directors.

Strategic Area 3: Education/Outreach

Goal 1: Increase the community's awareness of the district and its programs.

Objective 1: Assess landowner needs.

Objective 2: Improve landowner awareness of agriculture, development, compliance with environmental regulations, and resource issues through a district newsletter, informational brochures,

press releases and participation in community forums.

Goal 2: Increase the community leader's awareness of the district and its programs.

Objective 1: Sponsor tours and workshops of recent district projects, highlighting agricultural and resource concerns.

Objective 2: Sponsor forums and tours that address common agriculture, development, and resource concerns.

Objective 3: Speak to community service organizations and local government forums.

Strategic Area 4: Forest Health

Goal 1: Facilitate countywide private land strategic plan for fuels reduction and forest health.

Objective 1: Promote use of GIS data and analysis for planning.

Goal 2: Work collaboratively with the Plumas Firesafe Council.

Objective 1: In collaboration with the Plumas Firesafe Council, work with CDF to develop community fire management plans.

Objective 2: In collaboration with the Plumas Firesafe Council, sponsor countywide strategic plan development for fuels management.

Goal 3: Promote use of the California Forest Improvement Program

Objective 1: Facilitate neighborhood meetings to plan neighborhood fuel reduction projects.

Strategic Area 5: Watersheds

Goal 1: Participate in the development and implementation of policies and programs to improve and maintain watershed health.

Objective 1: Find areas of concern.

Objective 2: Seek and secure funding.

Objective 3: Make sure projects are completed.

Goal 2: Implement stream restoration and erosion control projects to improve fisheries habitat, improve hydrologic response, riparian health, and conserve soil resources on private and public lands.

Goal 3: Continue involvement in the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Process.

Objective 1: Attend FRCRM meetings.

Objective 2: Be involved in other agencies.

Objective 3: Find areas of concern.

Goal 4: Work with community services district to seek avenue of control of Watershield in Round Valley Lake.

Objective 1: Secure use permit.

Objective 2: Control Watershield.

Objective 3: Improve water quality.

Objective 4: Control Watershield to make the lake a better fishery and/or expand recreation.

Strategic Area 6: Recreation

Goal 1: Investigate or become aware of opportunities to improve and or expand recreation facilities.

Objective 1: Feather River College whitewater rafting outdoor recreation.

Objective 2: Eco tourism or Ag tourism.

Objective 3: Sierra Valley Birds and Barns BBQ

Objective 4: Support local events

Objective 5: Improve local camps

Objective 6: Clean-up recreational areas

Timeline for Objectives 2005-2009

Strategic Area 1: Agriculture

Year 2005

Objectives: Advocate compliance with Ag Waiver regulations.

Year 2006

Objectives: Secure Monterey Agreement funding for new projects.

Year 2007

Objectives: Finish projects.

Year 2008

Objectives: Find new projects.

Year 2009

Objectives: Obtain funding for new projects.

Strategic Area 2: Organization

Year 2005

Objectives: Attendance from all directors at RCD meetings.

Year 2006

Objectives: Attendance from all directors at RCD meetings.

Year 2007

Objectives: Attendance from all directors at RCD meetings.

Year 2008

Objectives: Attendance from all directors at RCD meetings.

Year 2009

Objectives: Attendance from all directors at RCD meetings.

Strategic Area 3: Education/Outreach

Year 2005

Objectives: Create public awareness for what the FRRCD is and what it can provide for them.

Year 2006

Objectives: Create public awareness for what the FRRCD is and what it can provide for them.

Year 2007

Objectives: Create public awareness for what the FRRCD is and what it can provide for them.

Year 2008

Objectives: Create public awareness for what the FRRCD is and what it can provide for them.

Year 2009

Objectives: Create public awareness for what the FRRCD is and what it can provide for them.

Strategic Area 4: Forest Health

Year 2005

Objectives: Gain awareness of forest health issues, support USFS QLG and Fire Safe Council projects.

Year 2006

Objectives: Gain awareness of forest health issues, support USFS QLG and Fire Safe Council projects.

Year 2007

Objectives: Gain awareness of forest health issues, support USFS QLG and Fire Safe Council projects.

Year 2008

Objectives: Gain awareness of forest health issues, support USFS QLG and Fire Safe Council projects.

Year 2009

Objectives: Gain awareness of forest health issues, support USFS QLG and Fire Safe Council projects.

Strategic Area 5: Watersheds

Year 2005

Objectives: Find possible projects.

Year 2006

Objectives: Fund projects.

Year 2007

Objectives: Finish projects.

Year 2008

Objectives: Find possible projects.

Year 2009

Objectives: Fund projects.

Strategic Area 6: Recreation

Year 2005

Objectives: Find method of support for recreational activities.

Year 2006

Objectives: Support the activities.

Year 2007

Objectives: Obtain funding for a recreational project.

Year 2008

Objectives: Finish project.

Year 2009

Objectives: Clean up one recreational area.